

CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Working paper on the practical application of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

At the 627th meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, held on 16 April 1974, the Chairman of the delegation of Mexico made a statement (CCD/PV.627, pp. 25-26) on the subject indicated in the title of this working paper, the text of which is now being circulated in this form since there is no trace of it in the draft report prepared by the Co-Chairmen (CCD/443):

Concerning the cessation of the nuclear arms race, the information summarized below, which is taken from the most serious and trustworthy publications on the subject, is in itself adequate evidence of how the commitment undertaken in 1968 in the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been fulfilled-- or rather, not fulfilled

- (a) The most modern nuclear submarine in existence in 1968 cost \$180 million. The one which has now replaced it costs \$1,300 million.
- (b) One of the superpowers has substantially increased its stock of land-based ballistic missiles, while in the case of the other, there has been a qualitative increase through the development of the so-called "multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles" (MIRV). The end result is, however, the same: the number of nuclear warheads with which the two superpowers have equipped their intercontinental missiles, in a constant state of readiness for firing, from land bases, from submarines or from long-range bombers, which in 1968 came to a total, for both of them, of 3,700, will probably by 1975, still for both the superpowers together, come to around 15,000.
- (c) The military budget of one of the superpowers, estimated at \$68,000 million in 1968, is estimated at around \$100,000 million for the current year. Similarly, the military budget of the other superpower, which in 1968 was reckoned to be \$40,000 million, appears to have increased in the same proportion, since it is reckoned at about \$60,000 million for 1974.

Between 1968 and 1974 the cost of a nuclear submarine rose by more than 700 per cent, which alone is eloquent evidence of the enormous increase in its destructive power, while there was an increase of 400 per cent in the number of intercontinental missile nuclear warheads for firing from land bases, submarines or long-range bombers, and an increase of 50 per cent in military budgets.

This is how the nuclear superpowers have interpreted their "intention to achieve" .. "the cessation of the nuclear arms race" and "nuclear disarmament" which they undertook in 1968 in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.